

West 57th: Iran Contra and John Hull's Ranch (1987)

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An in-depth look at the drug smuggling and arms dealing that became known as the Iran Contra scandal, with a focus on CIA involvement and the role of John Hull, whose ranch was allegedly used as an airstrip for moving arms and drugs in Costa Rica.

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hi welcome to west 57th our first story tonight is about gun running drug smuggling the cia and the white house it's complicated but it's a story that raises serious questions about whether white house officials knowingly broke the law the law in this case was laid down in 1984 when congress specifically barred all american officials from giving weapons ammunition or any military aid to the contras the countries are the gorillas who are fighting to overthrow the san anista government of nicaragua president reagan just yesterday personally appealed once again to resume military aid to the contras late today the house narrowly approved 100 million dollars for them but what many of the congressmen weren't aware of before that vote is the following allegation that the white house secretly directed a private aid network to arm the contras when it was illegal for the white house to do that this is a story that takes many roads involves many people but where all of them intersect is at a place called john hall's farm northern costa rica 30 miles from the nicaraguan border in the contra war this is john hall country he's an american who's lived here more than 20 years he owns or manages 8 000 acres along the contras southern front i'm a rancher a farmer and absolutely nothing else just an indiana boy transplanted in northern costa rica indiana boy transplanted what is the extent of your involvement with the conference indirectly i've helped contrast through a humanitarian effort to help their wounded to get people wounded in here and get them to the hospital and i've never made any secret of that it's been absolutely open i wouldn't know anything about john hall

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i wouldn't know anything about john hall unless john hole told me and how many people would come up to you and say i'm the c.i.a guy in costa rica in the spring of last year mercenary stephen carr spent five weeks around john hall's farm training contras he broke probation when he went to join the contra war he's now serving time in an american jail carr says john hall supplied the countries their food and their weapons john was the man in costa rica he told you where you're going we want this here we want that there he was the organizer stephen carr is a liar stephen carr is a boy that's been in trouble all of his life he's some of the dregs of humanity that the communists use to produce misinformation to push their point across anywhere peter glibbery is another mercenary who trained contras taking his orders he says from john hall he took us to see the campsite where he worked along the border in 1985. we met john hull on saturday 9th march and we flew out of miami sunday 10th where did you meet him i met him in the in the in the restaurant of the howard johnson hotel opposite miami airport essentially he wanted to know our military skills how long were you prepared to commit to the war for what kinds of things did he ask you about your military experience he wanted to know if we could use 60 millimeter mortars if we knew how to use a 50 caliber branding machine

gun this campsite he claims is on land john hall controls he started telling us about this friend of his on the national security council what did he say he said my friend sends me ten thousand dollars a month for the support of the fdn in costa rica did he ever tell you what the ten thousand dollars a month was for

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thousand dollars a month was for um yes it was for paying the military commandante also providing food the rice and the beans and the ammunition for the troops in the field the firing ranges were over on that hill and uh this is where this is the log where we used to sit and drink coffee with a civil guard in the morning so yeah how many of you were living here um 14 or 15. there were three trainers and the rest were conscios do you know anybody on the national security camera no i do not that's the same as you say with the cia i probably wouldn't know him if they walked in the door there are many allegations that have been made that surround his farms that surround him individually and he is certainly one of the figures that we would like to know more about as part of this investigation democratic senator john kerry who sits on the foreign relations committee has been investigating whether the white house secretly violated the congressional ban on military aid to the contras that investigation is in its fifth month if in fact they have been trying to circumvent the will of congress and provide aid notwithstanding that that seems to me to be a very serious infraction it's a it's a constitutional violation it's an infringement on the stated law of this country if you will how do you know all these mercenaries how do they know you they came through here on their way we talked to them they stayed overnight they had breakfast here and they wanted to know where to go and how which road to take to get to the northern border they say you were running country operations on lands that you own or manage that's not true never have never have i never will did you ever use his farm for camps for your contrast see until this year eden pastora ran the largest contra operation on the southern front he was supplied off and on for four years by the cia he says john hull was a critical link in the cia supply line receiving weapons from the united states

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receiving weapons from the united states storing them and moving them out to the contra troops if he if i told you he says he doesn't work for the cia he says he was never involved in any of this stuff he says he was merely a man who transported the wounded is that true well it's his word against that of the cia the head of the cia in costa rica told me that he was cia you're certain he did things other than just transport wounded soldiers he transported me into 1985 secret weapon shipments from the united states were being moved through el salvador one of those shipments flew out of fort lauderdale's executive airport in march destined those who loaded it say for john hull's farm we loaded shipping of arms about six tons there was machine gun 60s motor tubes c4 jesus garcia is an avid contra supporter in jail in miami on a weapons charge he says the cia sanctioned the shipment the arms were for john hall to ship his john hall's farm for who for john hall was the cia behind the weapon shipments or the national security council or the white house in any way that you're aware of i don't know about directly but i know they they had to have had knowledge absolutely there's no way you can circumvent all the things there's no way you can land at a military airport in el salvador with a plane at a military airport unless somebody cleared it a charter commercial civilian plane lands at a military airport somebody had to arrange it somebody had to arrange that anybody ever check the plane what do you mean check the plane they unloaded it

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unloaded it weapons and all i was very surprised i thought we were going to land on a dirt strip and be sneaky about it not these guys they're saying that you were involved in running weapons down to costa rica for the contras what do you say to that tell them to talk to your lawyers see uh yeah you better talk to my lawyer about it that's the main thing renee corbo a cuban american from miami arranged that fort lauderdale shipment according to those on board the plane corbeau is said to be one of hall's key operatives said to have commanded a camp inside nicaragua that john hall allegedly supplied the allegation runs that there was a load gathered miami including 20 millimeter cannons flipped caliber machine gun mortars high

explosives loaded up on a plane in fort lauderdale taken through el salvador and then landed here at john hall's farm that's flat not true i can guarantee you one thousand percent that isn't true do you know john hall yes i do how is it that you know how is it yeah well i don't want to talk about that okay no no because i don't want it do you know renee corvo i have met renee corbo there again one time he came into my i might have met him twice one of it was just gun running okay so the administration supports these guys aid got tight they needed guns so they got a private group to run united states congress very specifically prohibited and declared its intent not to have weapons as part of our relationship with the contras now we made that clear we denied them lethal aid that is precisely what the vote is about today what we were doing was illegal of course it was illegal were you hiring mercenaries which that's uh neutrality violations you're running weapons that's firearms

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you're running weapons that's firearms violations you're plotting to kill people that's conspiracy to murder i mean you could write a law book on some of the things that these people do jack terrell was a military commander for a private american group that had been supplying trainers for the contras he is now a critical witness for senator kerry he says he met twice with john hall and this man named robert owen to plan contra operations i came to know him as the nsc representative to the costa rican situation acting in behalf of colonel oliver north so you're saying rabon was the go-between between costa rica and the white house the national security national security council yes he was the bag man for holly north lieutenant colonel oliver north is on the white house national security council he reportedly designed and directed the contra aid network oliver north refused our request for an interview robert owen his alleged intermediary received fifty thousand dollars of american tax money designated for contra humanitarian aid a state department source said quote it was a payoff robert owen also refused our request for an interview would you put robert dolan under oath i'd love to put mr owen under oath and a number of other people sure his name has been uh certainly essential to this owen tommy said well i take ten thousand dollars a month to john hull from the nsc for these types of operations and if we need more money that's no problem i've met rob on several okay like i say we're personal friends i have no business dealings with rob whatsoever i have no idea even who the fellow works for we're friends we've met a few times that's all there is to it where have you met like i say i met him in washington i've seen him when he was here when he came here he called me when he was in

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came here he called me when he was in this country in the time frames i don't remember but it's no big deal and not a lot of time what were you doing what was he doing in this country when he called you i have no idea i have no idea what does he do for a living i have no idea why are you so certain that if all this is true and john hall in fact did have connections with the nsc that washington would know that weapons were being shipped in there's there's no conceivable way they could not know what john was doing there are also allegations that the nsc was aware that members of the private aid network were involved in smuggling drugs the drug enforcement agency told us this part of costa rica was a major transshipment point for cocaine bound for miami allegations of drug running have surfaced centering around the private airstrips on and around john hall's farm according to many in the private aid network some of the same secret routes used to bring weapons to the contras carried cocaine back to the united states contra suppliers taking advantage of their covert connections to run cocaine air strips have been set up clandestine flights have been set up the law enforcement agencies have kind of been pushed aside or pulled back in certain instances there is evidence of that and it's been made easier for these people to then turn to use that access to our shores as well as to the shores of another country for illicit purposes that's that's what it appears that's correct to run drugs did you ever hear anything about john hall and drug smuggling i didn't know that john hull was linked to narcotics trafficking but i did know that what much of what came through his landing strips was linked to narcotics trafficking what was the flight plan

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colombia colombia costa rica costa rica to miami i have no contact with anybody in the drug business i have never let a drug plane land or be refueled on any airport here at any time we've got a cancer here it's like watergate it's not going away there is great possibilities here that this could become contra gate it could have the same ramifications it has certainly got a parallel start you consider yourself a real american patriot i sure do and a real nice fellow the cia declined comment on this story except to say that they always comply with congressional restrictions in central america the white house today quoted colonel oliver north as calling the private aid network nonsense the white house also said quote the president never approved any such plan end quote yesterday two congressmen filed a formal request demanding white house records of any contact between oliver north robert owen and john hall good evening welcome to west 57th our first story tonight contains new and startling information that indicates the american government got involved in smuggling drugs to supply the nicaraguan contras that's right drug smuggling organized by the cia to support the contrast congress is already investigating the covert network set up by the white house and the cia to secretly supply the contras with guns and money but tonight you'll hear from three men who say as incredible as it sounds that the government through the sale of marijuana and cocaine helped fund that secret war the basic scheme confirmed in three dozen interviews was

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confirmed in three dozen interviews was simple fly weapons down to the contras using the same planes and pilots secretly flied drugs back to the united states then sell the drugs and use the proceeds to buy more weapons for the contras to keep the contras armed and fighting according to the tower commission the white house started the secret weapons network in 1984 those organizing the gun shipments included former and current cia operatives but what wasn't in the tower commission report is that among those recruited to fly weapons to central america were known drug traffickers we're talking about millions and millions of dollars do you really believe the government decided to get into the drug business in order to pay for the contract the american government uh as incredible as it may sound i i believe that not only decided to get into it i think they orchestrated the whole thing mike tolover is a pilot whose principal occupation has been smuggling drugs he's currently serving a three and a half year sentence in a federal prison in miami for a conviction unrelated to the secret flights he made for the contras he says he was approached in 1985 by long-time cia operatives to run what they called supplies it was military supplies and i didn't have to be a real dummy not to figure out what that was what did you think it was guns ammunition for the confidence and that as an expedited bonus uh we could either freelance on the way back meaning what well i mean we could uh we could bring back our own cargo and they would arrange it or we could bring back their cargo without ever having to worry about interception arrest anything like this that everything was taken care of what kind of cargo were you talking about drugs what kind of drugs whatever you wanted marijuana cocaine whatever you want to come back with fine we can make sure you don't get it we can make sure it was my understanding that they would make sure we wouldn't get caught they were providing not only the cargo but the landing areas

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the cargo but the landing areas cruise everything for drug runs yeah they would also provide the drugs if you wanted absolutely which indeed they did why would the cia allow drug plans to come into the united states loaded with coke for the us money george morales the leader here in the 1983. george morales is a world champion boat racer he is also a world renowned cocaine trafficker whose empire extended from colombia to miami morales was indicted for running cocaine in 1984. he says the cia used his indictment to pressure him into providing planes pilots and three million dollars in cash to the contras he too is in federal prison awaiting sentencing on the 84 charge you're saying drug planes were allowed into the states as long as somebody was kicking some money into the contra coffer definitely is this like just a one-time occurrence somebody snuck in no frequent yes routine yes believe it or not the the entire business is compartmentalized you've got i'm like a teamster you know i'm in transportation you got people that are in loading you've got people that are in offloading you've got people that are in distribution people are in sales you know it's like an ibm situation tolover says he had two meetings with this man rafael quintero a veteran cia contract agent who was

coordinating secret weapons flights for the covert network then toliwer made two flights in march of 1986 he was instructed to fly to honduras he landed at the airstrip at aguacate a contra resupply base set up by the cia we had about 28 000 pounds of military supplies guns ammunition things like that and when you landed in honduras no checking no customs no well i didn't think the customs people were going to be out there in the jungle be honest with you what kind of cargo were you bringing back 25 000 and change pot and same people you believe set you up with the arms exactly oh of course it also set you up with the 25 sure 25 000 pounds and change yeah that's

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25 000 pounds and change yeah that's what the the the uh these people they gave me said 25 i think 360. so what do you do with that 25 thousand pounds we take off from honduras and we leave to south florida we're in south florida we landed at homestead homestead air force base you brought 25 000 pounds of marijuana and landed it at homestead air force base that's correct with who's clearance i was given a discreet uh transponder code to squawk about uh two hours south of miami i received my instructions from the ground for traffic separation and told them what my destination was what did you say i told them we were a non-scheduled military flight into homestead air force base what happened when you landed uh we landed about 1 32 o'clock in the morning i guess and a little blue truck came out and met us and had a little uh white sign that said follow me and he did inflation likes them followed it right to where some area of the of the of the field i have no idea i've never been there before since were you surprised we were going to land all this pot was i a little little taken aback to be honest with you i was somewhat concerned about i figured it was a setup they were going to you know or it was a dea bust or a sting or something like that and instead nothing happens to you no the little guy in the truck puts in the pickup truck and takes us out and out puts me i got a taxi cab did you get paid for the flight seventy five thousand dollars tolliver identifies this as the plane he flew the plane traces to a company that was hired by the government to fly humanitarian supplies to the contras at the same time toliwer made his flight how do you know the cia was aware of these drug plans entering the state they actually saw the transaction they saw the drug transaction yes i mean like unloading a plane full of cokes they saw that yes here in the state no where out of the state central america yes according to morales

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yes according to morales and seven other sources weapons from the united states were shipped here to northern costa rica only miles from the contra war they say the planes landed at several airstrips controlled by this man john hull a cia operative placed by the tower commission in several meetings with oliver north a half dozen sources call hull a key player in north secret weapons network they say it was under hull's direction that the guns were taken off the planes and the cocaine loaded on destined for the united states there's never been any drug movement through this zone or through any of our farms because on each farm the foreman has a log of every airplane that lands of all the movements is made there and we have kept these not for me but for the costa rican narcotics people it's kept by your employees ostensibly if you're any good at doing this kind of thing you wouldn't put it in the law i'm not that good jane there's never been anyone land here that i didn't know exactly who they were you are aware of planes loaded with drugs and planes loaded with weapons landing and using the airstrips of johnson yes i'm aware though did they do this in the middle of the night perhaps they did it and he wouldn't be aware of it is it possible uh basically in the middle of the lane middle of the afternoon broad daylight yes how much was he getting for each landing when you would come through with a drug plane uh that i'm gonna wear three hundred thousand dollars i took uh two loads small aircraft loads of weapons to john hull's ranch in costa rica and returned back to florida with uh approximately a thousand kilos of cocaine thousand kilos of cocaine yeah 500 each trip gary betzner was one of george morales's top pilots he too was in federal prison in miami on an unrelated drug conviction his sentence is 15 years like morales

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his sentence is 15 years like morales and toliver he has little to gain from talking about these drug flights none of what they say here will shorten their sentences for their other convictions who would load that cocaine down in costa rica who would accept the weapons who would load the cocaine most people that were hired by john holler are working for him uh would load the aircraft and both the cases john hall was there and uh he physically saw the weapons coming in physically saw the weapons coming in did he physically see the cocaine going out he physically saw the bags how did you know you were landing at the right strip because i was communicating by radio and they were expecting you so you called in you said this is mr betzner and i have no no no i just called in and i went and then i got a whistle came back right and i said i'm 20 minutes out or whatever i said okay and uh i landed where did the cocaine come from the cocaine was there when we offload the weapon because they had the fuel on the same truck with the uh coke the second triple went down i didn't go back into john hall's place i went into another strip was maybe 10 or 15 miles east of the place with a little better strip what exactly was in the plane that you flew from fort lauderdale well there was some c4 explosives uh m60 machine gun it was stacked all the way to the ceiling how many pounds of weaponry i would estimate around 2500 pounds well i understood right away it wasn't uh the private guns that went down that were that important it was what was coming back they could buy much larger and better and more sophisticated weapons and it was unaccounted for cash when you were first approached by the cia and the contras how was that approach made what did they say to the best of your recollection when was it it was right after my diamond in 1984 march 1984 they came to my office before that i

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they came to my office before that i have a few meetings with nuts high high level contracts he'd been doing business with the contract yes but all of a sudden somebody bigger shows up at your office here in miami very very big yes what was the rank what what level cia person well he is the contact directly with the cia in the country he was uh sort of the advisor he he worked for the cia at the beginning do you know george morales yes i know josh morales octaviano cesar is the man morales says recruited him to run guns and drugs cesar is now an official for a contra group in costa rica so what you wanted for morales with planes and cash hey hey any type of because if you didn't have the plane you needed the cash to go and buy the planes you needed the plane so you can bring with the supplies in addition to morales eight separate sources confirm his cia connection what is your relationship with the cia your personal relationships none never none when he said that he checked this with washington in high levels what did that mean what kind of high level he will speak directly with uh well he told me that he directly to speak with the vice president bush about my situation about clearing up your indictment yes i'm drug dealing charges yes he told you directly that he just spoke to the vice president taking care of him yes he did also willian casey how do you know that the cia person that says look help us out give us some money give us some air support let us use some of your planes train us some pilots we'll help you with your indictment and by the way you know i've talked to vice president bush and cia director casey about your problem how do you know it wasn't just a boaster just just a baloney artist i knew what relationship he had with washington people and he's very well known not only but the united states but also the government of costa rica he says that he agreed to pay

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says that he agreed to pay 250 000 a quarter to the contra cause and to donate planes if you offered protection and help for him in terms of his drug charge i thought it falls where absolutely false money go what type of arrangements would be made to receive this money who'd actually have some money somebody went sent through banks some money went send directly cash money to them you would hand over cash to whom to the contract in sales in what form pack it up in a suitcase yes boxes suitcases box a cash yes how much in one load i mean how much would you pack into a bag or a suitcase or a box i don't recall thousands yes tens of thousands yes 100 000 yes in one single trip to a bank in the bahamas george morales and octaviano cesar brought back four hundred thousand dollars u.s customs records confirmed this octaviano cesar signed the declaration if you were to guess how much money the cia raised by hitting up drug dealers for for drug money how much would that be total in 1984 1985 1986 a lot of money directly indirectly a lot of

money millions of dollars that i'm aware of given your experience who do you figure arranged all of this what's your best guess my best guess would be there would have to be someone in either the top four three slots or the cia as i know their organization has to be someone that i it have to be why because who else can you get that's going to know number one the inner working thing but they can pick up on say let this happen who did pick up the phone to say let this happen we can only tell you who says they didn't the air force says it has no record of mike oliver's flight into homestead air force base

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homestead air force base the white house denies knowledge of drug smuggling but points out they can't speak for oliver north oliver north refuses so far to speak vice president bush says he never heard of george morales or octaviano cesar and the cia says quote it strictly observes u.s law drug smuggling is against the law end quote mike toliver george morales and gary bestner will testify before congress next month hi welcome to west 57th our first story tonight concerns more information on the connection between the contras in central america the united states government and cocaine when we first reported that connection three months ago we told you that the white house and the cia had used known drug traffickers to arm the contras the guns were brought down to the contrast and the drugs were brought back to the united states the cia called our story scandals defamatory journalism at its worst the current congressional hearings investigating the iran-contra scandal have not dealt with these drug charges even though many of those accused of drug trafficking worked for oliver north in the network he set up to supply the contras but now there's another committee just across capitol hill that's taking the drug connection much more seriously the senate foreign relations committee has recently started its own hearings behind closed doors one of the operations that committee will likely look into is the subject of our report tonight it's an operation that raises disturbing questions about how the american government kept the contrast supplied with guns and money when it was illegal to do so and who the american government tapped to do the dirty work the operation involves an obscure little shrimp company that has a strange relationship with the state department the cia and the men who worked for oliver north

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our story begins in a sleepy port town in costa rica a few hours south of the contra war it is here that those keeping the contras in guns and money apparently joined forces with those suspected of keeping america supplied with cocaine it started with a little shrimp company four sources say the cia found it first and used it as a cia front the company is called free frijorificos de puente uranus it has facilities in costa rica and an american partner tucked away in the back of a miami shopping mall the miami partner is called ocean hunter there's a company for seafood importation of seafood it was just a front what they really wanted to import was cocaine jesus garcia worked in the secret weapons network set up to supply arms to the contras he says while ocean hunter was importing cocaine it was exporting guns and money to the contras he is now in prison on an unrelated weapons charge due for release later this year the cia they have a lot of fun companies for uh for moving money arms supply people ocean hunter was established uh as a front in march of 1985 jesus garcia helped load a secret illegal weaponship into the contras that left from this fort lauderdale airport he is one of two witnesses who said the flight was paid for by a partner in the ocean hunter company we know the shipping of arms about six tons there was machine guns 60s motor tubes c4 the weapons were flown to el salvador to a military air base the staging area for most of the secret weapons flights arranged by the white house and the c.i.a garcia says the arms he loaded up had been stored in miami safe houses including the home of francisco paco chanus a partner in the ocean hunter company

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company garcia says pacochanus was running more than guns remember bacochanas was moving out of the north's on shipping pacochanus had a cocaine shipment 10 feet away from oliver's north arm shipment yet uh nothing is said nothing will be said because parker could just turn around and put the finger on the us government the people involved in the network were involved in drugs including ocean hunter including

ocean hunter john mattis is a public defender in miami who stumbled on the murky arms and drug network while representing jesus garcia it was the fbi agents themselves in interviews with mr garcia that turned to mr garcia when he says indeed it was francisco chanus whose house i picked up weapons from they turned to mr garcia and said we're investigating him for drugs that was january 1986. we're now a long time beyond that and nothing's happened we went looking for francisco pacochanus at the miami office where ocean hunter is still in business whatever business it is that they're in no one here wanted to talk could you tell me how to get it i don't know i don't know let me see mr chanus owns this can you tell me what ocean hunter does sir or who you might be i'm what does ocean hunter do well i don't know and you're visiting here you're just visiting well who works here well i don't know i'm delivering something what kind of stuff are you delivering an envelope that's it and then below well do you know what they do for a living i don't know it's uh here you are paco i'm the manager here man um he refused to identify himself two

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he refused to identify himself two sources later said this man is paco chanus he declined our request for an interview ocean hunter is not only accused of helping the contras with weapons they also allegedly gave cash during the ban on government aid ocean hunters money man says he secretly delivered two hundred thousand dollars a month to the contras now there seems to be a big thing to do about the cia having connections with drugs it might be news now but it's something that has been quite prevalent for quite some time ramon million rodriguez was one of the biggest dealers in dirty cash in the world before he was sentenced to 35 years in prison for money laundering and cocaine trafficking he says his clients included the colombian cocaine cartel the cia and ocean hunter government sources confirm all three claims did anybody in the cia ever suggest that you should work with ocean hunter an individual with alleged government connections which i cannot say what agency of the government he dealt with that i don't know asked me to look favorably on this company on the ocean hunter account yes to please handle their money yes please do what they needed please deduct large amounts of cash make payments to the countries whatever they need whatever they need congressional sources identified the individual as this man felix rodriguez a veteran cia man who became a key player in oliver north's network when rodriguez appeared before the iran contra committee he was not asked about drugs or ocean hunter did he say whether there was anything in it for you there was nothing in it for me except good will

[00:38:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2280s)

good will when did i need a lot of good will when did he ask you to do that [Music] late 84. so somebody you know in the past has worked for the cia may or may not be working for the cia when he approaches you maybe working for the nsc for example could have been working for oliver north could have been working for william casey who knows he just comes and says do what you can for this ocean hunter firm precise hello when we went back to costa rica to ask if some of that cash had been moved through ocean hunter's partner company we couldn't even get inside the gate could we please speak to mr nunez we were told the company director moyes nunes doesn't even work here uh i'd like to speak with mr nunez or make an appointment just like you yeah well would you would you be mr nunez can i talk to you for a moment please sir i'm jane none of the ocean hunter principles would answer our inquiries by phone and registered letter about money laundering felix rodriguez or drug trafficking outside of the united states drug dealers are very powerful people they have cash the cia deals primarily with items outside of the us if they're going to deal in foreign countries policies and politics they're going to run up against or run with the drug dealers it cannot be done any other way how does that relate to ocean hunting ocean hunters somewhere in between all of this they obviously have contacts on both

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2400s)

they obviously have contacts on both sides cia and drug dealers yes and they obviously put these contacts to a mutually beneficial use the state department apparently found ocean hunters contacts useful too in january of 1986 the state department began pouring humanitarian aid money into the company accounts

according to documents obtained by west 57th they deposited at least two hundred thousand dollars into these accounts at the same time the fbi was investigating ocean hunter for smuggling drugs is there any chance that those checks went to a company that was not involved in this drug smuggling not involved in the gun running the people were the same people the two were part and parcel of the same entity the man overseeing that account for the state department was robert owen owen worked for oliver north his code name was the courier when owen testified recently before the iran contra committee he was not asked about ocean hunter and drug running owen declined our request for an interview does it bother you that ocean hunter was allegedly running drugs at the same time getting state department humanitarian assistance money absolutely of course it bothers me because we shouldn't be involved with those kinds of people in so-called humanitarian efforts or in any official or unofficial efforts of the united states government senator john kerry is a democrat on the foreign relations committee when he discovered taxpayers money was going to suspected drug dealers he reported it to the fbi nothing happened from my perspective what has been disturbing is that the information that we received april of last year and transferred to appropriate authorities within united states agencies has not been acted on to this point in

[00:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2521s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2521s)

has not been acted on to this point in time in the spring of 1986 at the same time senator kerry was reporting ocean hunter to the fbi the fbi already had sent an agent here to costa rica the fbi agent was supposed to be investigating this man john hull hall had been on the receiving end of the weapons allegedly paid for by the partner in ocean hunter we've been following hull's career for two years he was a key player in oliver north's weapons network eight sources named hall as a former cia operative a half dozen named paula's being involved with cocaine are you in the shrimp business no i'm not in the shrimp business i'm not in the drug business i'm not in the arms business i'm not an explosive bit he's the one who received arms from francisco chanus's flights he's the one who received those shipments into his own property in northern costa rica he knew who was organized in those flights he spent enough time in south florida he's met with the people in the network because he's part of that network so he certainly knew who ocean hunter seafood was and who was behind ocean hunter seafood do you know the fellow that runs this ocean hunter firm never heard of it do you have any evidence any proof any ideas of whether the large sums of cash you had delivered to the congress whether it actually made it to the contrast when it actually went to beans and rice or bullets or there's no way to trace cash what's your guess my guess is that not all of it got there you know but i'm a cynic where would it have ended up i would say that you're going to find a lot of it in nest eggs foreign accounts waiting for the day when the contra issue is no longer popular when congress votes it out of existence and they have to do something else for a living

[00:44:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2642s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zre0cHrtPMk&t=2642s)

two weeks ago under heavy security ramon milian rodriguez was brought to capitol hill ocean hunter it appears is just the beginning under oath he told senators that the drug connection is much larger that he'd handled a direct 10 million dollars in cash contributions from the colombian cocaine cartel to the contras the man who asked him to handle the money he testified was felix rodriguez the foreign relations committee has issued subpoenas for former cia operative rodriguez former cia operative john hull and is seeking testimony now from robert owen oliver north said in the hearings this week that reports linking him to drug smuggling are patently untrue the state department refuses comment the cia says it does not engage in or condone drug smuggling on its relationship with ocean hunter the cia says it cannot confirm or deny intelligence activities or associations the fbi claims it is still investigating ocean hunter and cannot comment on a pending investigation

END